

CLAIMS

1. A method for separating glycolipids, comprising:
 - (a) a step in which a sample solution obtained by hydrolysis of an extract derived from a biological sample with a mixture of a nonpolar solvent and a polar solvent is brought into contact via a semipermeable membrane with a solution having lower osmotic pressure than the sample solution; and
 - (b) a step in which the contact is continued until the sample solution divides into two or three layers, and the middle layer and/or bottom layer are/is separated.
2. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the glycolipids are gangliosides, and the contact in step (b) is continued until the sample solution divides into three layers and the middle layer is separated.
3. The method according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the biological sample comprises a cell or tissue of an animal or plant, or a microbial body.
4. The method according to any of Claims 1 through 3, wherein the nonpolar solvent is chloroform, pyridine or a mixture of these, and the polar solvent is water, methanol, sodium acetate or a mixture of two or more of these.

5. The method according to any of Claims 1 through 3, wherein the mixture of the nonpolar solvent and the polar solvent is a mixture of water, methanol, chloroform and pyridine.

6. The method according to any of Claims 1 through 5, wherein the sample solution is obtained by hydrolyzing and then neutralizing the extract.